

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 OEP-01 GSA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

L-03 H-02 /067 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ ISM: JCCURRAN: LMP

4/20/73 EXT. 22231

APPROVED BY EB/ ICD: JBKYLE

AF/ C: SJHAMRICK

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P 202218 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, US, CG

SUBJECT: STOCKPILE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 70365, (B) KINSHASA 3262, (C) STATE 70522

1. CONSULTATIONS INDICATED REFTELS WERE HELD IN DEPARTMENT APRIL 17 WITH ZAIRIAN CHARGE MUSHOBOKWA DEPARTMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY ISM DIV CHIEF CURRAN AND ZAIRE DESK OFFICER HAMRICK.

2. MUSHOBOKWA WAS GIVEN COPIES OF PRESIDENT'S STOCKPILE MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, WHITE HOUSE FACT SHEET, DRAFT LEGISLATION AND NEW OEP LIST OF STOCKPILE OBJECTIVES. CURRAN THEN EXPLAINED PROPOSALS TO ACCELERATE EXISTING DISPOSAL PLANS, AS DESCRIBED REFTEL, FOR COBALT, TANTALUM AND TIN, AND INFORMED MUSHOBOKWA THAT PLANS TO CONSULT ON DIAMOND BORT PROGRAM ARE TEMPORARILY SHELVED (REFTEL C REFERS). DEPARTMENT DATA SHEET WAS ALSO PROVIDED, SHOWING ALL STOCKPILE DATA ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES CONTAINED REFTEL AND PRECEDING STOCKPILE

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DEPTELS.

3. EXPLAINING THAT THIS CONSULTATION WAS CHIEFLY INTENDED CONVEY INFORMATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOZ, DEPARTMENT URGED THAT ZAIRIAN EMBASSY MAKE EVERY EFFORT RESPOND TO USG PROPOSALS WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS OF THIS MEETING.

4. IN EXPLAINING BACKGROUND OF PROGRAMS, CURRAN POINTED OUT THAT PRICE OF COBALT HAD RISEN FROM 2.45 DOLS PER POUND IN MARCH 1972 TO 3.00 DOLS PER POUND TODAY. GSA IS NOW OFFERING ONE MILLION POUNDS PER MONTH AND WILL CONTINUE THIS RATE INDEFINITELY, BUT MAY INCREASE ITS SALES BY ACCEPTING LOWER PRICES.

5. TANTALUM PROGRAM FOR FY 1974 CONSISTS OF DISPOSAL OF 756,000 POUNDS OF MATERIAL HELD IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT INVENTORY, FOR DISPOSAL OF WHICH EXPLICIT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED.

6. TIN: USG IS DETERMINED TO REENTER TIN MARKET AFTER VOLUNTARILY SUSPENDING ALL COMMERCIAL SALES FOR FIVE YEARS. DEPT OFFICIALS WOULD BE MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL IN TWO DAYS TIME TO WORK OUT PROGRAM, BUT WITH HIGH TIN PRICE (2.05 DOLS PER POUND IN NEW YORK), PRESIDENT'S POLICY DECISION ON RELEVANCY OF STOCKPILES, BUDGET DEFICIT, AND DETERMINATION TO COMBAT INFLATION, NO QUESTION THAT US WOULD SELL SOME TIN VERY SHORTLY.

7. MUSHOBKWA MADE FEW COMMENTS ON PROGRAMS AND SAID HE WOULD FORWARD INFORMATION TO KINSHASA PROMPTLY AND ASK FOR REPLY ASAP. HE ASKED ABOUT COPPER AND WAS TOLD THERE IS NO RPT NO COPPER AVAILABLE FOR DISPOSAL NOW; CONGRESS MUST LEGISLATE APPROVAL TO SELL ALL PRESENT INVENTORY OF 251,592 TONS; IF GRANTED, WE UNDERSTAND TREASURY WILL BUY ALL COPPER FOR MINT USE IN COINAGE. MUSHOBKWA OBSERVED THIS WOULD REDUCE TREASURY PURCHASES OF COPPER ON MARKET. CURRAN REPLIED THAT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER USG AGENCY FOR ITS USE WAS ESSENTIALLY AN INTERNAL TRANSACTION, NOT SUBJECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS; COPPER, LIKE ALL OTHER STOCKPILE MATERIALS, WAS, AFTER ALL, BOUGHT BY USG TO BE USED BY IT WHEN NECESSARY. PORTER
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCCURRAN: LMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730448/aaaaitpd.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 70365, 73 KINSHASA 3262, 73 STATE 70522
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jan-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980127
Subject: STOCKPILE DISPOSAL CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, CG, US
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005